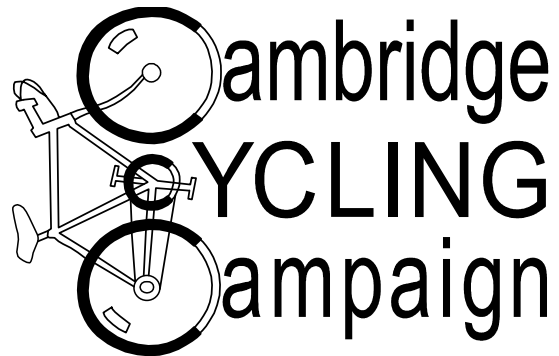


August 2, 2005

Our ref: C 05 022

Your ref:

Toby Williams
Cambridge City Council
toby.williams@cambridge.gov.uk



Cambridge Cycling Campaign

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Dear Mr Williams,

Grand Arcade Cycle Park – draft proposals

Many thanks for your letter of 4th July. As requested, we submit below our comments on the plans.

First, however, we must reiterate our view that the amenity of the cycle park will be considerably reduced if there is no adequate access to it. We continue to pressure officers and Councillors to ensure that a contraflow in Corn Exchange Street is approved.

However, we are very concerned at the distance proposed between the cycle parking stands, as noted on the plan. The distance given on the plans of 0.75m is not compliant with the City Council's own cycle parking specifications, which the proposed specification claims will be adhered to, and which require a spacing of 1m. A distance of 0.75m is completely unacceptable and will certainly not enable cycles with baskets and panniers, for instance, to be accommodated.

We therefore ask that you insist that the plans be amended to have a minimum of 1m between stands, that Sheffield/A stands are continued to be used (high density stands would not be acceptable here), and that the number of stands as set out in the planning application is not lowered from 511 stands.

As regards the proposed written specification, we strongly welcome this. It seems well thought-out and seems to create a sensible management system and appears to cater well for a variety of different cycles and the various needs of different users. Our only comments are that:

- We believe the cycle shop opening hours need to be amended so that employees of the centre are able to use it. For this reason we propose that the opening hours be changed to 'at least half an hour before and after closure of the main shopping arcade'.

- We feel that the proposed cost of membership, at £100 per year, is too high and should be lowered. Also, we propose that weekly and monthly memberships be available (giving the same benefits, but for those respective durations) as a full year may deter many potential members.

Lastly, the plans do not make it clear whether cyclists can easily get to the entrance of the cycle park through the “layby for minibus and two coaches”. Please ensure there are suitable dropped kerbs to enable cyclists to do this at times when vehicles are not present.

We hope these comments are useful and we look forward to hearing from you further, particularly on the matter of the spacing between stands.

Yours sincerely,
on behalf of Cambridge Cycling Campaign,

Martin Lucas-Smith
Co-ordinator